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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 0599
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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, OREP, PREL, CI, US

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET FROM U.S.

CONGRESSMEN

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1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER SENT DECEMBER 7 TO GENERAL PINOCHET SIGNED BY 35 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. OVER THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS, WE HAVE READ ACCOUNT AFTER ACCOUNT OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY YOUR GOVERNMENT AGAINST YOUR OWN PEOPLE UNDER THE "STATE OF SIEGE" WHICH YOU HAVE IMPOSED. DIRECTING YOUR OWN MILITARY AGAINST CHILEAN CITIZENS AND IMPRISONING PERSONS INDISCRIMINATELY ARE ACTIONS WE CANNOT CONDONE. SUCH ACTIONS DO NOT STAND UP TO THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS BASED IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND IGNORE THE LONG TRADITIONS OF POLITICAL RIGHTS OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE. WE CALL ON YOU IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS TO BRING AN END TO THE STATE OF SIEGE AND TO RESTORE THE HUMAN AND POLITICAL RIGHTS OF YOUR COUNTRYMEN.

ON A NUMBER OF RECENT OCCASIONS, THE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR ON THE BOARD OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT

BANK HAS CAST VOTES IN SUPPORT OF ASSISTANCE TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT. WE WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THOSE VOTES DO NOT IN ANY WAY REFLECT A CONDONING BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S RECENT ACTION. FURTHERMORE, WE THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT A FAILURE ON THE PART OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE HUMAN AND POLITICAL RIGHTS OF YOUR PEOPLE WILL LEAVE US WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO CALL ON OUR REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARDS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND THE WORLD BANK TO CAST THEIR VOTES AGAINST FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT.

THE FORCES OF DEMOCRACY ARE MAKING PROMISING STRIDES AROUND SOUTH AMERICA. THAT REFLECTS THE STRONG INDIGENOUS BELIEF AROUND YOUR CONTINENT FOR THE FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS INHERENT IN TRADITIONAL DEMOCRACIES. THOSE SENTIMENTS HAVE A LONG HISTORY IN CHILEAN TRADITION, AND IGNORING THEM IS A DISSERVICE TO YOUR GREAT NATION. THE TIME FOR RESTORATION OF THAT TRADITION IS LONG PAST, AND THE ABUSES OF RECENT WEEKS BY YOUR GOVERNMENT MAKE THE MENEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS ALL THE MORE URGENT. END TEXT. SIGNED BY REPS. WIRTH, GLICKMAN, TORRICELLI,

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FEIGHAN, ACKERMAN, GEJOENSON, FRANK, WEAVER, WEISS, MOAKLEY, FAUNTROY, MRAZEK, OWENS, DORGAN, DYMALLY, DELLUMS, OBERSTAR, LEVIN, BERMAN, LOWRY, MORRISON, KAPTUR, LELAND, DURBIN, SEIBERLING, PATTERSON, LEVINE, PANETTA, GRAY, BRYANT, RODINO, WALGREN, SOLARZ, FROST, AND BEILENSON SHULTZ

SHULTZ END OF MESSAGE

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